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Borough of



Accrington

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

PAUL M. SAMMON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

including the

Reports of the Chief Public Health  
Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent

FRANK KENNIFORD, F.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H., M.A.P.H.I.

== 1971 ==

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## MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

1971-72

THE MAYOR, Councillor G. G. Smith (ex-officio)

Chairman:

\*COUNCILLOR Mrs. GRANT

Vice-Chairman:

\*COUNCILLOR C. DILLON

ALDERMAN Mrs. HAINES

„ J. POLLARD

\*COUNCILLOR G. G. BROADHURST

„ J. V. DONOHOE

„ Mrs. HUGHES

„ Mrs. MADDEN

„ J. MADDEN

\* „ W. PARKINSON

„ W. STANTON

\* „ Mrs. WHITTAKER

\* Members of the Health Sub-Committee.

## STAFF OF THE HEALTH AND CLEANSING DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

PAUL M. SAMMON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

SHEILA M. HUTCHINSON,  
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

FRANK KENNIFORD, F.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

GEORGE GREENWOOD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Administrative Assistant:

ROBERT McCONNELL, D.M.A.

Assistant Cleansing Superintendent:

ERNEST LIVESEY

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

GARRY S. BELL, Dip., P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.

JOHN M. DAVEY, Dip., P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.

STEPHEN A. TODD, Dip., P.H.I.E.B.

GEOFFREY SIMCOCK, Dip., P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant: DAVID S. FINNEY

Student Public Health Inspectors:

DAVID T. CLARKSON (resigned 31.10.71)

ALAN BROWN (resigned 18.6.71)

TREVOR W. MITTON (appointed 13.9.71)

NOEL PILLING (appointed 13.9.71)

Clerical Staff:

Mrs. A. THORNLEY (Senior Clerk)

Miss A. M. CUNLIFFE (Shorthand Typist) (resigned 31.5.71)

Miss P. OUGHTON (Shorthand Typist) (appointed 1.7.71)

PETER BRITCLIFFE (resigned 4.12.70)

PETER BRANDWOOD (appointed 15.12.70)

WILLIAM WHITELEY (Cleansing Depot)

ARTHUR SMITHIES (Refuse Disposal Works)

19 St. James Street,  
Accrington.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of  
Accrington.**

Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1971. The sections of the report which deal with the Sanitary Circumstances, Housing, and Inspection and Supervision of Food, have been compiled by your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. F. Kenniford, and form his Annual Report for the year.

The Vital Statistics bear comparison with the previous years. The Census of 1971 shows a population of 36,838 as opposed to 39,018 ten years previously. The Birth Rate was 16.6 as opposed to the national average of 16.0; the Death Rate was 15.7 as opposed to the national average of 11.6.

The incidence of Infectious Diseases does not call for any special comment except in the case of Tuberculosis. 19 new cases were notified during the year; 14 being respiratory cases and 5 non-respiratory cases. The number of new cases notified is similar to the previous year which means there is a continuing slight increase in the number of cases on the register. The actual number on the register is now 85 as opposed to 75 in the previous year.

I wish to thank Mr. F. Kenniford, your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. G. Greenwood, his Deputy, and all members of the Public Health Department for their help during the year and also for the interest shown in the work of the department by members of the Health Committee, the Town Clerk and other Officers of the Corporation.

Yours faithfully,

P. M. SAMMON,

Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Ambulances	}	Provided by Lancashire County Council
Home Nursing		
Home Helps		
Maternity & Child Welfare		
School Medical Service		
Tuberculosis (Home Visiting)		
Welfare of Aged		
Hospitals	}	Provided by Manchester Regional Hospital Board
Venereal Diseases Treatment		
Tuberculosis Treatment		
Laboratory		
		Public Health Laboratory, Preston.

Public Analyst - - Mr. A. C. Bushnell, F.R.I.C., M.Chem.A.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

### Housing.

See Public Health Inspector's Report. The problem remains very large.

A. No. of new houses built in 1971 :—

1. By the Corporation, 32.
2. By other bodies or persons, 37.

B. 1. No. on waiting list for houses, 472.

2. No. of applicants known to be living in lodgings, 64.

- C. 1. No. of cases of overcrowding brought to notice during the year, 21.
2. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, 19.

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### TUBERCULOSIS.

Nineteen new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year; of these 14 were respiratory cases and 5 were non-respiratory cases.

The incidence of males to females infected was as follows:

Respiratory, 13 males; 1 female.

Non-respiratory, 4 males; 1 female.

There were 2 deaths caused by this disease in 1971.

Total number of cases on the active register at 31st December, 1971 :—

Respiratory	males 43	females 15	=	58
Non-Respiratory	„ 14	„ 13	=	27
				<hr/>
				85
				<hr/>

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### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Notifications were received in respect of 46 cases during the year 1971. There were 21 cases of Measles, 12 cases of Food Poisoning, 12 cases of Dysentery, and 1 case of Whooping Cough.

## ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH.

There were 579 deaths registered in the Borough in 1971. Of these 293 were males and 286 females. The Death Rate for the year was 15.7 as compared with that for the country as a whole which was 11.6.

Heart Diseases headed the list as the cause of death, being responsible for 201 of the registered deaths. Cerebrovascular Disease came second with 98 deaths, and Cancer third with 84 deaths.

It will be seen then that

36.09% of deaths were due to Heart Diseases.

16.92%        „        „        „        Cerebrovascular Disease.

14.05%        „        „        „        Cancerous Diseases.

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## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres), 4,418.

Population (Census 1931), 42,991.

Registrar-General's estimate of Resident population,  
mid 1971, 36,870.

Population—Preliminary Census, 1961, 40,987.

Population—Census 1961, 39,018.

Population—Census 1971, 36,838.

No. of inhabited houses, (Census, 1931), 12,019;  
(1971): 14,453.

Rateable Value: £1,179,901.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £10,979.

The social conditions of the Borough are generally good. Chief industries are textile weaving, finishing and printing, textile and general engineering, etc.

### VITAL STATISTICS (Provisional).

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births—Legitimate .....	277	284	561
Illegitimate .....	22	28	50
	<u>299</u>	<u>312</u>	<u>611</u>

	Male	Female	Total
Stillbirths .....	5	7	12
Deaths of Infants under 1 year .....	8	6	14
Deaths (all ages) .....	293	286	579
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			16.6
Stillbirths—Rate per 1,000 total births .....			19
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population .....			15.7
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Births .....			Nil.

### INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births .....	23
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate Live Births .....	23
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births .....	20
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	84
„ „ Measles (all ages) .....	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	—
„ „ Pulmonary Tuberculosis (all ages) .....	2
„ „ Other forms of tuberculosis (all ages) .....	—

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### TOTAL NUMBERS OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, INFANT DEATHS AND INFANT MORTALITY FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Infant Deaths.	Infant Mortality
1971	611	579	14	22.9
1970	628	548	12	19.1
1969	621	562	10	16.0
1968	616	597	20	32.0
1967	635	539	15	24.0
1966	585	593	15	25.6
1965	638	599	14	21.9
1964	631	568	9	14.3
1963	648	583	13	20.1
1962	617	611	13	21.1

# CAUSES OF DEATHS OF ACCRINGTON RESIDENTS DURING 1971.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm :—			
Buccal Cavity, etc. ....	1	—	1
Stomach .....	5	4	9
Intestine .....	6	6	12
Larynx .....	1	—	1
Lung, Bronchus .....	20	6	26
Breast .....	—	7	7
Uterus .....	—	2	2
Prostate .....	5	—	5
Leukaemia .....	1	2	3
Other Malignant Neoplasms .....	10	7	17
Benign & Unspecified Neoplasms	—	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus .....	2	5	7
Avitaminoses, etc. ....	1	—	1
Other Endocrine, etc., Diseases .....	—	2	2
Anaemias .....	—	2	2
Other Diseases of Blood, etc. ....	—	1	1
Mental Disorders .....	—	1	1
Meningitis .....	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System ...	2	4	6
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	2	8	10
Hypertensive Disease .....	3	5	8
Ischaemic Heart Disease .....	99	59	158
Other Forms of Heart Disease .....	17	16	33
Cerebrovascular Disease.....	35	63	98
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	9	23	32
Influenza .....	—	1	1
Pneumonia .....	16	22	38
Bronchitis and Emphysema .....	27	7	34
Asthma .....	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	6	9

Peptic Ulcer .....	3	2	5
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ...	3	1	4
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	2	1	3
Other Diseases of Digestive System ...	1	4	5
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	2	—	2
Other Diseases, Genito Urinary System	1	1	2
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	—	2	2
Congenital Anomalies .....	3	1	4
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. ...	2	—	2
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	3	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	3	3	6
All other Accidents .....	2	4	6
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ...	2	1	3
	<hr/> 293	<hr/> 286	<hr/> 579

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1971.

	Total cases notified.
Acute Encephalitis .....	—
Acute Meningitis .....	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—
Anthrax .....	—
Cholera .....	—
Diphtheria .....	—
Dysentery (Amoebic or Bacillary) .....	12
Food Poisoning .....	12

Infective Jaundice .....	—
Leprosy .....	—
Leptospirosis .....	—
Malaria .....	—
Measles .....	21
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	—
Paratyphoid Fever .....	—
Plague .....	—
Relapsing Fever .....	—
Scarlet Fever .....	—
Smallpox .....	—
Tetanus .....	—
Typhoid Fever .....	—
Typhus .....	—
Whooping Cough .....	1
Yellow Fever .....	—
	<hr/>
	46
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### TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during the year 1971.

#### NEW CASES.

Age Periods Years.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .....	—	—	—	—
1 .....	—	—	—	—
5 .....	—	—	—	—

10 .....	1	—	—	—
15 .....	—	—	2	—
20 .....	—	—	—	—
25 .....	—	—	—	1
35 .....	3	—	—	—
45 .....	4	1	1	—
55 .....	2	—	1	—
65 and upwards .....	3	—	—	—
Age unknown .....	—	—	—	—
<hr/>				
Total ...	13	1	4	1
<hr/>				

### DEATHS.

Age Periods Years.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .....	—	—	—	—
1 .....	—	—	—	—
5 .....	—	—	—	—
10 .....	—	—	—	—
15 .....	—	—	—	—
20 .....	—	—	—	—
25 .....	—	—	—	—
35 .....	1	—	—	—
45 .....	1	—	—	—
55 .....	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards .....	—	—	—	—
Age unknown .....	—	—	—	—
<hr/>				
Totals ...	2	—	—	—
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### FOOD POISONING.

Two outbreaks of Food Poisoning occurred, resulting in 7 cases. The causative organism was salmonella typhimurium, but the foodstuffs concerned were not discovered.

A total of 12 cases were notified during the year.

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### SUPERANNUATION EXAMINATIONS.

In 1971 the following examinations were carried out, viz :—

Superannuation Acts .....	158
P.S.V. Licences .....	15
Other Examinations .....	27

# PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES.

ANNUAL REPORT — 1971-72

Public Health and Cleansing Department,  
Cannon Street,  
ACCRINGTON.

**To the Mayor and Members of the Town Council.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my seventeenth Annual Report on the Borough's Environmental Health Services, the work of the Public Health Inspectors covering the calendar year 1971 and the Public Cleansing Services for the financial year ended 31st March, 1972. It is regretted that pressure of duties has again delayed the preparation of the report, but I have tried to make reading as topical as possible.

Re-organisation of local government is rapidly approaching, and it is pleasing to know that uncertainties about the size of the new district, and certain of its functions with which this Department is concerned, have finally been resolved. Much remains to be done in the short time available if re-organisation is to be effected with the minimum dislocation to elected members, their officers and the public. To this end chief officers of all departments are co-operating closely, as are officers in the various authorities comprising the new district.

So far as this Department is concerned efficiency, co-operation and service must be the objective in any new 'Environmental Health Services' section, which after all is only the updated phraseology for the work of a Health and Cleansing Department. Unlike other authorities all services have been dealt with hitherto in Accrington, and we can only lose functions, e.g. refuse disposal, petroleum acts, food and drugs authority duties, etc. If re-organisation is likely to improve efficiency over the county area then it must be welcomed.

"Environment" and "Pollution" are the 'in words' nowadays, but they are only what the Public Health Inspector has been fighting for or against all his life, and the increased public awareness and support are appreciated by him.

Real progress is being made in the town in the fields of slum clearance and clean air, a total of 18,191 visits having been made by the inspectoral staff during the year. Comment in this report concerns matters which have particular relevance at the time of writing.

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### WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied with water by the Calder Water Board from upland sources at Dean Clough, Mitchell's House, Burnley Road and Plantation Mill Reservoirs, upland and underground sources at Higher Antley, Lower Antley and Foxhill Bank Reservoirs, the underground supply from Altham Borehole, and the bulk supply from Manchester Corporation via the Haweswater Aqueduct.

Since its formation in 1963 the Calder Water Board have maintained the progressive policy of the former Accrington and District Water Board to improve and augment water supplies in the district.

All public water supplies are passed through pressure filters and chlorinated, but regular routine samples are taken by the Board from every source and submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. Two samples of treated water submitted by this Department for bacteriological and chemical examination were reported to be satisfactory.

The supplies from Mitchell's House, Higher Antley, Lower Antley and Foxhill Bank reservoirs are soft moorland (peaty) water, having a low pH value, and are treated to neutralise acidity. Water from the other sources is not liable to plumbosolvency, and from regular examinations by the Board to ascertain pH value a standard of 8.0 is sought.

Approximately 26 houses, situated in the rural parts of the town, do not receive a mains supply but have private supplies, e.g. wells, springs, etc.

Twenty-seven bacteriological samples and six chemical samples were submitted from ten separate premises. Nine of the bacteriological samples and five chemical samples were found to be satisfactory, but eighteen bacteriological samples and one chemical sample, from six premises, were found to be unsatisfactory.

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

During the year 158 waste water closets were converted to the fresh water system, of which 45 were eligible for grant aid under the Accrington Corporation Acts and 113 under improvement grant schemes. The various types of sanitary convenience in use at dwellinghouses in the Borough are approximately as follows, viz:—

	1971
Fresh Water Closets .....	13,323
Waste Water Closets .....	1,360
Pail Closets .....	25

One cannot be satisfied with the low annual rate of conversions of waste water closets, although there are a number of reasons for this.

The main one is high costs, which are increasing year by year. The grant paid by the Corporation, at present one third, towards the cost of conversion is too low to encourage anyone not compelled by emergency. Standard Grants under the Housing Act for improvement allow up to £75 towards the cost of a convenience inside the house.

Our grant of one-third is payable under the provisions of the Accrington Corporation Act, 1928, a progressive measure at that time but now outdated. One effect of re-organisation will be the disappearance of local Acts, and I hope the new authority will accept the payment of one half the cost as permitted under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Labour shortages and a marked inclination of contractors to tackle easier and more remunerative work is another reason, together with a reluctance of employees to undertake this dirty and laborious job. All this is obvious from contractors' refusal to quote, and it is becoming extremely difficult to get someone who is prepared to do the work however urgent.

Sanitary conveniences at the bottom of a yard are neither sanitary nor convenient, and I doubt the wisdom of perpetuating them. The object should be to ensure that a toilet is inside the house wherever practicable. I should also like to see the clutter of tall outbuildings and walls to the yards of terraced houses

eliminated with the consequent environmental improvement. However, it is disappointing to me that this has not been possible to achieve in the Woodnook General Improvement Area at least; it would appear that the cherished yard privacy has prevailed.

For the time being we should persist in encouraging inside toilets with the aid of standard or improvement grants, reserving action, voluntary or compulsory, for external water closets where agreed or necessary. A number will be automatically abolished on completion of the clearance programme.

I have dealt at length with this subject as I consider the abolition of waste water closets as one of the most important sanitary requirements of the Borough. Blockages were removed by the Department's employees from drains and sanitary conveniences at 1,881 premises.

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### REFUSE STORAGE ACCOMMODATION

In 1932-33 Accrington pioneered in the abolition of the old insanitary ash-pit at the bottom of the yard, when Local Act powers were obtained enabling a scheme for the conversion of 5,253 ash-pits to over 9,000 dustbins to be undertaken by grant-aid. This was a progressive move and resulted in tidy back streets with neat lockable doors to each bin-shed. Continuous neglect by owners and occupiers has resulted in a progressive deterioration in the appearance of back streets due to defective structures, missing doors, etc., and rising costs have aggravated the position.

During the year 490 defective dustbins were renewed by informal action, but little was done by occupiers to the structure of bin-sheds. The law is not helpful in securing dustbin provision, and for this reason many local authorities have introduced municipal bin provision schemes. In fact in 1950 the Council considered reports from the officers on the question of introducing such a rate-borne scheme but decided against, leaving us to continue provision by the service of notices. However, the time is approaching when the matter will have to be re-considered in the light of local government re-organisation, and a report will be submitted to enable decisions to be made on the various aspects.

## HOUSING

Further progress was made in implementing our current slum clearance programme of 950 dwelling-houses over a ten year period. At the end of 1971, 710 of these houses had been dealt with, but at the time of writing this report his figure has increased to 910. Since the preparation of this programme in 1963 deterioration in the condition of many border-line houses has taken place, chiefly due to continually increasing repair costs in relation to rent yield. Houses which might have been saved by increased expenditure on repairs and improvement have now deteriorated into the slum category. The preparation of a further programme was completed in 1970, which covered a further 389 houses and extended the original completion date of 1972 by 5 years.

During 1971 it was possible to represent only one clearance area and the resultant compulsory purchase order has not yet been confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

It is generally accepted that due to various factors the clearance of scheduled properties is at best a slow procedure. We must, however, try to ensure that the period between representation and demolition is kept to an absolute minimum so as to minimise the nuisance and expense incurred by vandalism in vacated houses in clearance areas.

Advance purchase of houses in proposed clearance areas continued as Council policy. Those acquired were either closed or secured, or, provided they could be economically kept in a reasonable state of repair, let until such time as demolition became due.

In common with other northern industrial towns, Accrington has a high percentage of older terraced houses, which are mainly stone built and of similar construction, often lacking some or all of the standard amenities. Unless decay and obsolescence are arrested and improvements effected some will degenerate into sub-standard housing eligible for clearance; many are in fact "twilight areas".

On 4th November, 1971, the Council declared the Woodnook General Improvement Area after a detailed survey of 906 houses in the area had indicated that the area was suitable for improvement of the houses and their environment. One of the most serious defects revealed by investigations was that water supplies in the area were inadequate, the majority of houses being on partially occluded joint supply pipes. It became essential, therefore, to ensure that every house had a sufficient supply of water at an adequate pressure. This work has now commenced in Phase 1 of the area and is proceeding satisfactorily. On completion it is anticipated that environmental improvements will commence, including road re-surfacing, tree planting, improved street lighting, and some modifications to traffic flow and vehicle parking. The purchase of 52 Nuttall Street by the Corporation for use as a show house proved successful.

A further General Improvement Area, St. John's, has since been declared which involves 433 houses. Problems similar to those at Woodnook will arise, particularly with water supplies, but I am convinced that radical treatment of such areas by general improvement methods is the only satisfactory method of preventing area degeneration and of preserving the housing stock of the town.

It is gratifying that the Council practise what they preach and were off the mark early in area improvement of their own houses. The Spring Hill scheme comprised the improvement of 214 pre-war houses which was completed in 1970, and was followed by declaration as a General Improvement Area. The Laneside improvement scheme covers 245 houses and is currently well advanced. At the time of writing its declaration as a General Improvement Area is in progress together with the declaration of the Sudall Avenue Area (34 houses).

Voluntary improvement of houses by owners continued and 239 applications for Standard Grants were approved; many of such houses where standard amenities were installed were also simultaneously repaired or reconditioned. In addition 60 applications were received for Improvement Grants.

2,500 visits were paid by the Public Health Inspector and 1,960 defect were remedied during the year.

**Progress of Clearance Programme  
at 31st December, 1971.**

DEMOLISHED	No. of Dwelling- Houses	No. of Unfit Dwelling- Houses
Order		
Manchester Road/Hoyles Court C.P.O., 1963 .....	6	6
Manchester Road/Pollard Court C.P.O., 1963 .....	14	14
Back Lane/Astin Court/Chadwick Fold C.P.O., 1963 .....	14	14
Manchester Road No. 1 C.O., 1964 .....	4	4
Castle Street (by agreement-1964) .....	5	5
Station Road, Huncoat (by agreement-1964) .....	1	1
Back Lane/Manchester Road Nos. 1 and 2 C.P.O's., 1965 .....	11	9
Kenyon Street/Cobden Street/Mason Street (by agreement-1966) .....	9	9
Mill Street, Baxenden (by agreement-1966) .....	11	11
Burnley Road/South Street, Huncoat (by agreement- 1967) .....	11	11
Cobden Street/Cunliffe Street/Mason Street C.P.O., 1966 .....	42	42
Nuttall Street Nos. 1 and 2 C.P.O's., 1966 .....	39	33
Black Abbey Street/Jacob Street C.P.O., 1966 ...	7	7
Nuttall Street No. 3 C.P.O., 1967 .....	34	31
Paradise Street C.P.O., 1967 .....	3	3
Bank Street/Oak Street C.P.O., 1967 .....	17	17
Grange Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1967 .....	26	24
Grange Street No. 2 C.P.O., 1967 .....	32	32
Grange Street No. 3 C.P.O., 1968 .....	29	29
Grange Street No. 4 C.P.O., 1968 .....	32	24
Wellington Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1968 .....	23	23
Wellington Street No. 2 C.P.O., 1968 .....	6	3
Wellington Street No. 3 C.P.O., 1968 .....	16	16
King Street/Moreton Street C.O., 1968 .....	9	9
Castle Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1968 .....	11	11
Moore Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1968 .....	19	19
Burnley Road/Melbourne Street C.P.O., 1968 .....	10	10
Scaitcliffe Street/Paxton Court C.P.O., 1968 .....	15	14
Plantation Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1968 .....	12	7
Plantation Street No. 2 C.P.O., 1969 .....	23	20
Plantation Street No. 3 C.P.O., 1969 .....	20	14
Plantation Street No. 4 C.P.O., 1969 .....	20	18
Chapel Street No. 3 C.P.O., 1969 .....	5	4
Chapel Street No. 4 C.P.O., 1969 .....	14	14
Croft Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1969 .....	25	25
Ormerod Row C.O., 1969 .....	5	5
DEMOLITION DEFERRED.		
Thompson Court C.O., 1965 .....	5	5
Cockerill Court C.O., 1969 .....	3	3
CONFIRMED AND AWAITING DEMOLITION.		
Chapel Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1969 .....	12	11
Chapel Street No. 2 C.P.O., 1969 .....	25	21
Crawshaw Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1970 .....	30	30
Dale Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1970 .....	4	4
REPRESENTED AND AWAITING CONFIRMATION.		
Eagle Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1972 .....	51	51

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected during the year:—

	Houses	Flats
(a) By the local authority .....	1	31
(b) By other local authorities .....	—	—
(c) By other bodies or persons .....	37	—

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	1336
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose .....	2786
(c) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit .....	83

(2) Total number of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which:—

(a) Demolition Orders have been made (at any time) .....	170
(b) Demolition or Closing Orders have not yet been made ...	622

2. Houses Demolished:—

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
In or adjoining Clearance Areas:			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation .....	129	90	40
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangements, etc. ....	0		
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2), Housing Act, 1957 .....	20		

Not in or adjoining Clearance Areas :

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1), Housing Act, 1957 .....	9		
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health .....	0	0	0
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts .....	0		
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders .....	0		

3. Unfit Houses Closed :—

	Number		
(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957 .....	0		
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957 .....	0	0	0
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957..	0		

4. Unfit Houses made Fit:—

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority .....	0	—
(2) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts .....	0	0
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957 .....	0	0
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 .....	0	—

5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use  
(Housing Act, 1957) :—

	1. Number of houses	2. No. of separate dwellings contained in column 1
Position at end of year :		
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation :		
(a) Under Section 48 .....	0	0
(b) Under Section 17(2) .....	0	0
(c) Under Section 46 .....	0	0
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 35 .....	0	—

	Number of houses	Number of occupants
6. Purchase of Houses by Agreement:— Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year .....	36	18

7. Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, and Housing Act, 1969  
Improvement Grants, etc.:—

Action during year:—

	Private bodies or individuals No. of dwelling buildings affected	Local authority houses or other schemes of -
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority .....	60	—
(b) Approved by local authority .....	60	—
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry .....	Nil	Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry .....	Nil	Nil
(e) Work completed .....	22	Nil
(f) Additional separate dwellings in- cluded in (e) above .....	Nil	Nil

8. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Acts, 1961,  
1964 and 1969.—Standard Grants :—

Action during year:—

	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
(a) Submitted to local authority—full standard .....	239
(b) Approved by local authority—reduced standard ...	Nil.
(c) Total applications approved by local authority .....	239
(d) Work completed .....	209

### NOTICES SERVED.

Form of Notice:—

Intimation (preliminary) .....	203
Statutory .....	5
	<hr/>
	208
	<hr/>

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### COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Borough.

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### INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of clothing, bedding, etc., exposed to disease has always been carried out at the Cleansing Depot in a high-pressure steam disinfector. This is now beyond economic repair, and the high cost of replacement is not justified by the number of articles requiring treatment nowadays, and for the time being, arrangements have therefore been made to utilise facilities available at Blackburn. when essential.

Where necessary formalin solution and formaldehyde gas are used for disinfection, but modern opinion is that room fumigation is unnecessary except for certain diseases such as smallpox, etc. Thorough cleansing is usually adequate.

411 visits were paid in connection with cases of infectious disease and the necessary disinfection resulting therefrom.

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### PUBLIC MORTUARY

The arrangements agreed between the Corporation and the Blackburn and District Hospital Management Committee for the use of facilities at Victoria Hospital as the public mortuary continued to operate satisfactorily to the hospital, police and local authority.

## VERMIN AND DISINFESTATION.

In carrying out treatments for insect pests insecticidal solutions and powders together with smoke generators are employed. In the older type of house the cockroach is a particularly troublesome and repulsive pest, which is difficult to eradicate and tends to become accepted as inevitable. More should be done by the owner and occupier, or even by the local authority, in order to suppress this obnoxious insect.

During the year the following treatments were carried out by the Department's Staff with satisfactory results, 75 visits having been paid for the purpose.

	No. of Premises	No. of Rooms
Bugs .....	0	0
Cockroaches .....	43	113
Fleas .....	11	28
Spider Beetles .....	2	4
	<hr/> 56	<hr/> 145

## DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE.

The surface infestations which arise in dwelling-houses, business and industrial premises, etc., and originate chiefly as the result of rats gaining access by way of defective drains from the public sewers, have been treated as usual by the whole-time Rodent Operator working under the direction of the Inspectoral Staff. Although a charge is made for disinfestation work at business and industrial premises, a free service is afforded to dwelling-houses.

Regular sewer treatments are carried out to deal with rats at their source by the laying of poison bait in manholes. These treatments have had a considerable effect in reducing the rat population of the sewers, and consequently of surface premises, two men being engaged thereon for a large part of the year.

The methods of control adopted are those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

During the year 2,640 manholes were poison bated.

914 visits were paid by Public Health Inspectors in connection with rodent control measures.

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### **ANIMAL WELFARE ACTS.**

The Department is responsible for administering the Pet Animals Act, 1951, the Animal Boarding Establishment Act, 1963, and the Riding Establishments Act, 1964, which provide for the inspection and licensing of various premises where animals are kept. The Acts require the observance in these premises of certain conditions to ensure the health, welfare and safety of pet animals, horses, etc.

Liaison exists between the Department and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and a veterinary surgeon is retained for riding establishments.

Licences were granted in respect of 4 pet shops, 2 boarding establishments, and 1 riding establishment.

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### **OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

One tripe dresser carried on a scheduled offensive trade, the conduct of the premises being reasonably satisfactory.

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Since 1953 the Council have participated in a national survey for the volumetric measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere, instruments being installed at two suitable sites in the town and readings taken daily by our inspectoral staff. The results of the readings are forwarded monthly to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The table set out below shows the mean daily readings over the last 9 years taken at the two sites.

### Reduction in Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide Concentrations

Mean daily figures 9 years, April 1962 to March 1971 expressed in microgrammes per cubic metre.

Site A—Town Hall

Site B—Cambridge Street School

		SMOKE		SULPHUR DIOXIDE	
Year		A	B	A	B
1962/63	.....	186	243	237	258
1963/64	.....	152	198	198	234
1964/65	.....	129	273	192	320
1965/66	.....	114	212	177	269
1966/67	.....	148	201	182	198
1967/68	.....	95	153	153	155
1968/69	.....	58	119	122	141
1969/70	.....	54	104	117	160
1970/71	.....	76	92	146	162
Reduction over					
9 years		59%	62%	39%	37%

While admitting the fallibility of statistics, the pattern shown by these figures is what I would expect from our efforts to achieve clean air. There is a continuous reduction in both smoke and sulphur dioxide, due initially to sustained effort to reduce industrial pollution. With the coming into operation of our first Smoke Control Area on 1st November, 1967, there began a dramatic reduction in domestic smoke, especially after a noticeable improvement of industrial emissions in the town. The winter smoke concentrations show increases of 31 and 55% respectively over those for summer.

In the case of sulphur dioxide similar downward trends are apparent although not quite on the same scale. As sulphur is a constituent of solid and liquid fuels and town's gas sulphur dioxide will continue to be present in the atmosphere. However, further reduction is anticipated due to conversions to natural gas which is sulphur free, in addition to which there will be the effect of conversion of solid fuel appliances to gas.

It is an established fact that the industrialised towns of the north are in general more heavily polluted than the south, and, combined with climate, the north-west has all the pre-disposing ingredients for respiratory ailments. Accrington is making good progress towards making the town smoke free, and the creation of smoke control areas has already reduced significantly the smoke pollution over the town. This improvement will be progressive, and in addition to making the home and environment cleaner, will improve the quality of life about which we hear so much nowadays.

During 1971 our No. 9 Smoke Control Order became operative and covered 750 acres, which included 1,228 dwelling-houses together with 42 industrial, commercial and other premises.

No. 10 Area, covering 531 acres and including 1,032 houses and 41 other premises, was confirmed during 1970 with an operative date of 1st November, 1972.

No. 11 Area was surveyed during the year and covered 86 acres comprising 1,290 dwellinghouses. It was confirmed with an operative date of 1st November, 1973.

At the time of writing No. 12 Area has been confirmed, and the Order has been made for No. 13 Area but confirmation has not yet been received.

The position in the town at present is, viz:—

(1) Dwellinghouses subject to Orders operative in 1973 .....	6,706	(46.4%)
(2) Dwellinghouses subject to Orders made but not confirmed .....	1,682	(11.6%)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	8,388	58.0%
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Thus, 58% of houses in the town will soon be smoke controlled, which I consider is good progress in a period of about seven years since improvement of fuel supplies enabled the Department to resume its programme, which of necessity had been suspended. Furthermore, the appliances installed are modern, efficient and capable of burning the available fuels of the future.

# FACTORIES ACT, 1961

## PART I OF THE ACT

### 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	No. of Inspec- tions (3)	No. of Written notices (4)	No. of Occupiers prosecu- ted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	4	26	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	165	284	1	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .....	8	8	Nil	Nil
Total .....	177	318	1	Nil

### 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .....	1	1	Nil	1	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(a) Insufficient .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective .....	5	4	Nil	5	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total .....	6	5	Nil	6	Nil

## 3. Outwork (Sections 133 and 134).

Nature of work (1)	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 133(1)(c) (2)	SECTION 133		SECTION 134		
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Footwear	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Christmas Crackers	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

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**OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.**

The Act makes provision for the health, welfare and safety of workers in offices, shops, etc., and enforcement is divided between local authorities and H.M. Factories Inspectorate.

Duties under the Act during the year resulted in 215 visits being made by our inspectoral staff for the purpose of conducting 48 general inspections and also ascertaining compliance with notices served for contraventions of the required standards. In no case was it necessary to resort to formal action as re-visits showed a good response to informal notices.

Investigations were carried out in connection with 2 of the 3 minor accidents reported to us, and 19 additional premises were registered.

	Offices	Retail shops	Whole-sale shops, warehouses	Catering establishments open to public, canteens	Fuel storage depots
Number of registered premises at end of year	95	260	21	35	Nil
Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year	7	30	2	9	Nil
Number of exemptions current at end of year:					
Space (S.5.(2) )	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Temperature (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.9)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Washing facilities (S.10)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

### Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace.

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices .....	596
Retail Shops .....	1134
Wholesale departments, warehouses .....	128
Catering establishments, open to the public .....	181
Canteens .....	13
Fuel storage depots .....	—
Total	2052
Total Males	733
Total Females	1319

## PETROLEUM ACTS

Progress continued to be made in the town towards the improvement or elimination of installations for the storage of petroleum spirit.

Many installations were erected before the introduction of the Home Office model code of principles of construction and licensing conditions, and consequently there are unsatisfactory conditions existing at a number of filling-stations, which it is hoped will be rectified at the earliest opportunity and whenever practicable. All Licensees of petrol installations are advised to seek the Department's advice on eliminating sources of danger.

Administration of the Acts will be a function of the new county authority, and in many ways uniformity throughout the area will be advantageous. So far as Accrington is concerned there has been excellent liaison for many years between the Chief Public Health Inspector, the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, and the District Fire Prevention Officer of the Lancashire County Fire Brigade; I wish to record my appreciation of their invaluable assistance. Transfer of functions should present few difficulties here, but I sincerely hope that whoever takes over the job is able to devote more time to this work than has previously been possible with local authority staffs.

Highly inflammable liquids such as petrol present considerable hazards which often are not appreciated properly by licensees and employees. A fatality occurred locally some years ago and illustrated the vigilance required. The transport of large quantities of flammable liquids over wide areas requires a more broadly based network of supervision in case of emergency. Future trends for filling stations are towards the more sophisticated self-service type, with the possibility of greater hazard to the user and with the consequent higher standards of construction and operation necessary.

150 visits were paid during 1971 and storage licences were issued as follows, viz :—

Petroleum Spirit .....	46
Petroleum Mixtures .....	9

## DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1950.

The Police Authorities continued to carry out the various duties under this Act on behalf of the Council, including issuing licences and ensuring animal movements in accordance with licensing conditions, and undoubtedly the uniformity created by their administration of the Act in Accrington and surrounding districts is beneficial to all concerned.

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## SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

### (a) Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Shown below is a Return of all samples of food and drugs analysed by the Public Analyst under the provisions of the Act during the year.

354 visits were paid by Public Health Inspectors in connection with the sampling of food and drugs.

Article or food or drug	Number analysed	Number adulterated or non-standard	Percentage adulterated or non-standard
Milk .....	93	10	9.30
Milk Products .....	12	1	8.33
Cereal Products .....	1	—	—
Meat Products .....	7	2	28.57
Fish Products .....	3	—	—
Preserves and Sugar Products ...	9	—	—

Sauces, Spices & Pickles	7	—	—
Tomatoes .....	1	—	—
Flour Confectionery ...	3	1	33.33
Beverages .....	1	—	—
Soft Drink .....	4	1	25.00
Whisky .....	1	—	—
Dried Fruit .....	4	1	25.00
Canned Fruit .....	1	1	100.00
Fruit Curd .....	4	1	25.00
Fruit Juice .....	1	—	—
Cough Pastilles .....	1	—	—
Table Jelly .....	1	—	—
Hazelnut Spread .....	1	—	—
Medicated Shampoo ...	1	—	—
	<hr/> 156	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 11.54

## Milk

Three formal samples of milk, all from the same producer, were found to be deficient in milk fat to the extent of 3.3%, 13.3% and 1.6% respectively. Legal proceedings were taken and a fine of £10 was imposed plus £17.50 costs.

One formal sample of milk contained 0.5% extraneous water. A repeat sample was obtained and proved genuine. The producer was cautioned and no further action was taken.

One formal sample of milk was deficient in milk fat to the extent of 6.6%. A repeat sample was obtained and proved genuine. The producer was cautioned and no further action was taken.

One sample of sterilised milk was submitted for analysis following a complaint. The sample was found to be not sterile and the dairy was cautioned.

One formal sample of milk was deficient in milk fat to the extent of 18.3% and also contained 1.1% extraneous water. Legal proceedings were taken and a fine of £13.50 was imposed plus £20 costs.

One formal sample of milk contained 0.3% extraneous water. A repeat sample was obtained and proved genuine. The producer was cautioned and no further action taken.

### Other Foods

One informal sample of canned grapefruit segments in syrup contained a piece of foreign material consisting of canvas re-inforced P.V.C. film to a shape which suggested its use as a liner to a shoe heel. The importer was communicated with.

One informal sample of citrus peel had a copper content of 61 parts per million, the recommended maximum being 20 parts per milion. The retailer and supplier were informed and all remaining stocks were withdrawn from sale.

One informal sample of cream cheese was found to contain only 40.2% milk fat. To be called cream cheese the fat content should be not less than 45%. The vendor was interviewed and cautioned.

One informal sample of milk loaf was found to contain only 0.4% milk fat. The vendor was cautioned and advised to label skimmed milk loaf.

One informal sample of cottage cheese was found to be incorrectly labelled. The vendor was cautioned and the labels subsequently amended.

One informal sample of canned cola drink was found to contain no caffeine. The vendor was cautioned.

One sample of part of a Danish pastry was submitted for analysis following a complaint. The pastry was found to contain a mould growth of a penicillium species affecting about 15% of the internal surfaces of the confection. Legal proceedings were taken and a fine of £10 was imposed plus £10 costs.

One informal sample of lemon cheese was found to be incorrectly labelled. The manufacturer was informed and the labels were subsequently amended.

One informal sample of meat and potato pie was found to contain only 11.0% meat. Minimum meat content is 12.5% or otherwise be labelled as potato and meat pie. The vendor was cautioned.

One informal sample of swiss pate with truffles was found to contain only 60.0% meat. Minimum meat content should be not less than 70.0%. The importer was informed and cautioned.

**(b) Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 to 1954.**

Bacteriological examinations of milk samples were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Preston.

During the year 55 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for the phosphatase and methylene blue tests. All were reported to be satisfactory.

20 samples of sterilised milk were taken and were reported to comply with the turbidity test.

115 samples of untreated milk were submitted for the methylene blue test. 20 samples failed the test and were referred to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food for investigation.

115 samples of untreated milk were examined for brucella abortus. The organism was isolated from 5 samples, of which 1 was from a producer in the town, action appropriate at the time being taken in respect of it. The remainder were from 4 producers in other districts, and these local authorities were notified accordingly.

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## **MILK AND DAIRIES.**

**(a) Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are responsible for duties in connection with dairy farms, and the registration of persons carrying on or proposing to engage in the business of a dairy farmer.

The duties of the local authority are to enforce the regulations relative to:

- (a) the treatment and handling of milk;
- (b) the infection of milk and protection against contamination;

- (c) the cleansing and storage of vessels, utensils and appliances;
- (d) the conveyance and distribution of milk;
- (e) the registration of dairies other than dairy farms and of distributors.

150 milk distributors were registered under the Regulations.

#### (b) Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963 and 1965.

The special designations permitted are "Pasteurised", "Sterilised" and "Ultra-Heat Treated" for heat-treated Milk and "Untreated" as the special designation for raw milk.

The following licences were granted under the Regulations.  
viz:—

Dealers' Licences .....	150
Pasteuriser's Licence .....	1
Steriliser's Licence .....	1

### INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

954 visits were paid to miscellaneous food premises for the purpose of examination of food and inspection of premises. In no instance was it found necessary to resort to formal seizure of unsound food, all being surrendered voluntarily. The articles of food which were given up for destruction as being unfit for human consumption were as follow:—

Miscellaneous Pre-Packed Foods .....	695 containers
Miscellaneous Frozen Foods .....	6,699 packets
Meat .....	542 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Turkeys .....	2
Potatoes .....	121 lbs.
Melons .....	22
Flour .....	66 lbs.
Frozen Chickens .....	131
Cheese .....	52 packets

Orange Juice .....	56 bottles
Other containers .....	1,054

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### FOOD PREMISES

The table which follows is a classification of the various types of food premises in the town:—

Type of Business	Number
Grocers and Provision Dealers .....	141
Greengrocers and Fruiterers .....	13
Fishmongers .....	4
Meat Shops .....	40
Bakers and Confectioners .....	46
Fried Fish Shops .....	33
Sweets, Minerals, Ice Cream, etc. ....	55
Licensed Premises, Clubs, Canteens, Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars ...	151
Others .....	2
	<hr/>
	485
	<hr/>

The above-mentioned food premises include certain ones which require registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, viz:—

Manufacture of Ice Cream .....	1
Storage and Sale of Ice Cream .....	149
Preparation of Sausage, Preserved Foods, etc. ....	54
	<hr/>
	204
	<hr/>

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951.

No action was necessary during the year under the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts for the removal of persons in need of care and attention.

Section 50 of the 1948 Act imposes on the local authority the duty of causing to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died in their area, in any case where it appears to the authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body will be made otherwise than by the authority.

During the year under review, two burials were effected at a net cost to the Corporation, after deducting receipts for death grants, of £20.00, the deceased persons both being babies under the age of 3 months.

## CLEANSING SERVICES.

### COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

Year Ended 31st March, 1972.

#### REFUSE DEALT WITH.

(1) Refuse Collected.	Tons	cwts.	qrs.
House and Shop Refuse (Accrington) .....	7,685	1	0
House and Shop Refuse (Clayton and Rishton) .....	54	1	1
Market Refuse .....	242	18	3
Trade and other Refuse .....	1,400	5	1
	<hr/> 9,382	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 1

#### (2) Methods of Disposal of Refuse.

Taken to tips (12.3%) .....	1,150	3	3
Dealt with at Disposal Works			
(a) Separation and Incineration (83.8%) 7,865 7 3			
(b) Direct Incineration (3.9%) 366 14 3			
	<hr/> 8,232	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 2
	<hr/> 9,382	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 1

#### (3) Weight of Refuse.

Actually weighed .....	8,603	17	0
Estimated weight .....	148	14	2
Estimated weight from test weighings	629	14	3
	<hr/> 9,382	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 1

VEHICLE PERFORMANCE TABLE.

Vehicle	Purchased	Actual hours worked	Repairs	Cleaning	% Hours Running	Hours Holidays	Hours not Working
S. & D. 282UTF	June 1961	2249½	48½	6	93.2	49½	48½
S. & D. 1198 TD	June 1962	1543½	94½	6½	65.4	90½	625½
S. & D. TTE 529D	February 1966	1408½	100½	51½	63.2	90½	578½
S. & D. UTJ 359D	April 1966	2013½	111½	68	87.6	65½	38
S. & D. ITE 90F	April 1968	2063½	63½	61	91.2	75½	—
S. & D. MTC 899G	September 1968	1847	139½	75½	81.6	77½	125
S. & D. DTD 893J	March 1971	2102½	27½	86½	92.4	57½	—
S. & D. HTJ 238K	October 1971	903	14½	35	91.4	24½	12
Dennis GE 443 HTD	March 1959	346	69½	47½	16.3	90½	1561½
Karrier G.E. ETD 407J	April 1971	1148½	91½	173½	51.7	83½	723
†Bedford CBV 118C	January 1971	717½	42½	5½	32.4	119½	1330
Bedford VTJ 532H	March 1970	2163½	55½	16½	91.2	65½	71½
Lewin M.O. WTB 331D	May 1966	—	—	—	—	—	2025
Johnston SS CTJ 589J	January 1971	1591½	108	181½	69.7	74	327½
Johnston SS HTE 410K	September 1971	841	13½	129½	73.4	33	134½
*Karrier ETB 324B	April 1964	1656½	55	6	89.9	67	58
Karrier ETB 325B	April 1964	2217½	60	10	93.7	65½	13½
Karrier RHG 194K	December 1971	528	1½	1	96.7	16½	—
TOTAL.		25340½	1097½	962	74.1	1145½	7671½

† Second-hand vehicle

\* This vehicle was scrapped during the year.

In order to ensure that the motor vehicles in the Department are not kept in use beyond their economic life, and that the fleet is kept in a roadworthy condition to comply with road transport legislation, purchases of new vehicles were made during the year as indicated in the above table. These purchases were made in accordance with a Vehicle Renewal Programme which was presented and approved in the previous year.

The present Cleansing Depot where vehicles are garaged and repaired is now too small to accommodate the existing fleet satisfactorily, and a larger or extended building is required as a matter of some urgency. It may not be generally realised that we carry out practically all repairs in our workshops, but the extremely high standard of roadworthiness now required will necessitate the purchase of additional equipment in the near future. However, within a year from now it will be not Accrington's needs alone for which we shall have to plan for garages and workshops.

### REFUSE COLLECTION — DISTRICT EFFICIENCY.

DISTRICT:					
	Spring Hill & Higher Antley	West and North	East and South	North, Peel Park & Huncoat	Centre
Total emptyings .....	169,995	159,744	156,467	154,059	166,481
Total tonnage .....	1,528.5	1,474.9	1,338.9	1,460.9	1,324.8
Bins per man per hour .....	21	19	19	19	20
Weight per man per hour... (excluding weight of bin)	lbs. 416	lbs. 400	lbs. 366	lbs. 394	lbs. 359
Weight per bin (lbs.) .....	20	21	19	21	18
No. of bins for District .....	3,336	3,215	3,265	3,226	3,039
Frequency of emptyings .....	51	50	48	48	54

### REFUSE DISPOSAL WORKS.

#### SALES.

Year Ended 31st March, 1972.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	£	p
Waste Paper .....	753	19	1	7,687.10	
Textiles .....	0	11	0	24.41	
Compressed Scrap .....	348	3	0	1,677.66	
Other Metal Scrap .....	0	14	2	148.52	
Scrap Iron .....	13	5	2		
Reclaimed Cinders .....	129	9	2	247.78	

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£9,785.47

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The present Refuse Disposal Works were built in 1925, and a major scheme of alteration and improvements carried out in 1956, while an additional incinerator for bulky wastes was erected in 1967. As the volume of refuse is increasing at the rate of 3 to 5% per annum it is obvious that plant installed 16 years ago is now working to capacity.

In order to ensure that the most effective use is made of the existing plant the Work Study Section carried out detailed investigations, which has resulted in the following year in an improved throughput together with incentive bonuses for the men. It has been possible to deal with the refuse from Clayton-le-Moors where restricted tipping facilities have been causing embarrassment.

As a result of the fire which occurred in 1969 all the machinery in the Separation Room was renewed with more up-to-date equipment. By the time this report appears in print work will be commencing on renewing the hoist and grab with the most modern type, which will be remote-controlled. Work will also be under way in the provision of a new roof to the furnace room.

I have planned certain other environmental improvements e.g. fume extraction, clinker quenching chamber, grit arresting equipment, etc., about which it will be necessary to submit a report to the Health Committee. In order to accommodate refuse from any adjoining authorities who are short of tipping space I have also had plans for extending the incineration facilities by furnace extensions, and the construction of independent bulky article furnaces with electrostatic precipitators. Accrington and surrounding districts could have been made self-sufficient in matters of refuse disposal for many years. However, refuse disposal is a function which will now be transferred to the new Lancashire County Council, and it would appear logical to allow that authority to decide whether or not to extend the Accrington plant or erect new plants of the direct incineration type. Many larger authorities in the county are now following our lead in incinerating refuse, as we have done for well over 50 years, although of course their new plants are more efficient.

Suitable land is becoming increasingly difficult to acquire for tipping purposes, and the methods of tipping by many

authorities has resulted in planning permission becoming more difficult to obtain. We obtained permission for the use of land at the former Huncoat Colliery as a tip, but we are unable to utilise this to the full extent due to complications about a foot-path. Even with an incinerator it is essential to tip a certain amount of refuse and plant outgoings. I should like to repeat my statement last year recording my appreciation of the splendid co-operation received from Oswaldtwistle Urban District Council, who have allowed the Department the use of their tip at Duckworth Hall when necessary, thereby helping us out of a difficult situation.

During the year under review the total receipts from sales decreased by £1,126 compared with the previous year, due mainly to a reduction in the weight of waste paper salvaged of approximately 84 tons, and a reduced market price for compressed scrap. The quantity of other salvaged metal scrap also decreased.

The sum of £1,905.88 was distributed among the Department's employees through the Incentive Bonus Payment Scheme in respect of clean waste paper, as compared with £2,509.26 during the previous year. Of this sum £357.76 was paid to employees at the Refuse Disposal Works as the result of the scheme for salvaging clean waste paper at the works.

It cannot be stated too often that the Department gives a free service for the collection of bulky household articles, etc., and that this service is available on request. In fact 2,873 special collections of this type were made during the year. There is absolutely no need at all for household discards to be dumped on open spaces in the town, that is apart from the negligence and apathy so prevalent these days. So far as litter on the streets is concerned I hope to be able to effect improvements by re-organisation of the street cleansing services and provision of additional litter bins, but the basic problem is lack of personal discipline by many members of the general public. Building contractors and householders continue to clutter back streets with rubble from building alterations and are singularly reluctant to remove it.

Man's best friend is paradoxically one of his worst enemies environmentally. Consideration for his fellow citizens together with a little more effort could enable the dog owner to prevent

his pet from desecrating footways, becoming a road hazard, creating noise nuisance to neighbours, and causing depredations to farm animals. Marauding packs of dogs are a problem in many towns, generally because owners are too lazy to exercise their pets and merely turn them loose: if a person cannot take proper care of his dog then he should not keep one. It is pleasing to know that we have not given up to the problem locally as yet. I still maintain that raising the licence fee is the only way to sort out those who really want and need a dog from those to whom a dog is bought on impulse and becomes an encumbrance. In some respects it is unfortunate that byelaws to prevent fouling of footways penalise only the person who keeps his dog under control.

The winter of 1971/72 proved not too difficult to deal with for frost and snow. Thanks to the conversion of the former abattoir buildings for salt storage the perpetual headache of restricted storage facilities was removed. Our gritting machines and snow-ploughs were brought up to a satisfactory standard to cope with the demands. At the moment I cannot foresee how these operations will function under local government re-organisation, but in my opinion Accrington will not have a better local service than they have had hitherto. At this stage I should like to place on record my sincere thanks to the Assistant Cleansing Superintendent, Mr. E. Livesey and a handful of employees, for their devotion to duty in being prepared to turn out under the most difficult conditions and at the most inconvenient times in the service of the community. It is due to their disregard of personal hardship that the roads and side streets are kept open for traffic under severe conditions.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and encouragement during the year. I thank also my colleague officials and staff for their usual co-operation and assistance. In particular my personal thanks are due to Dr. Sammon for his support and willing assistance at all times.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

F. KENNIFORD,

Chief Public Health Inspector  
and Cleansing Superintendent







